

Report to the Congress

**STUDY TO IDENTIFY MEASURES NECESSARY
FOR A SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION TO A MORE ELECTRONIC
FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARY PROGRAM**

**As Required By
Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1996
Public Law 104-53**

**U.S. Government Printing Office
Washington, DC 20401
June 1996**

GPO Publication 500.11

Attachment A:
Legislative Requirements for the FDLP Study

Legislative Requirements for the FDLP Study

[This information was downloaded from legislative databases online via GPO Access.]

Senate Report 104-114 on H.R. 1854; FY 1996 Legislative Branch Appropriations (Pages 48-49)

Public access to Government information is a basic right of every American citizen. The Committee recognizes the critically important service that the Government Printing Office and participating libraries in the Federal Depository Library Program provide to citizens throughout the country in furnishing timely, equitable access to Government information.

The dramatic advances in technology provide new opportunities for enhancing and improving public access. However, the increasing utilization of electronic technologies in support of dissemination programs by all branches of government requires careful analysis, planning, and probable restructuring of the current program. Without this analysis, planning, and a strongly coordinated effort, improvements to the program will be delayed, costly, and very well may compromise the public's right to Government information.

The Committee believes the planning should incorporate the goals of equitable, efficient, timely, and dependable access to Government information. The Committee supports a strong coordinated effort between the respective oversight and appropriation committees, the Government Printing Office, executive branch agencies, participating depository libraries, and other relevant and appropriate organizations.

To this end, the Committee directs the Public Printer to initiate a study, under the direction of the Committee, that:

- Examines the functions and services of the Federal Depository Library Program;
- Surveys current technological capabilities of the participating libraries in the Federal Depository Library Program;
- Surveys current and future information dissemination plans of executive branch agencies;
- Examines and suggests improvements for agency compliance of relevant laws, regulations, and policies regarding Government information dissemination;
- Identifies measures that are necessary to ensure a successful transition to a more electronically based program;
- Identifies the possible expansion of the array of Federal information products and services made available to participating libraries; and
- Ensures the most cost-efficient program to the taxpayer.

The study shall include a strategic plan that will assist the Congress in redefining a new and strengthened Federal information dissemination policy and program.

In conducting the study, it will be important for the Public Printer to work closely with the respective oversight and appropriation committees, executive branch agencies, other distributors of Federal documents and information products, the Library of Congress, the depository library community, the National Technical Information Service, users, the information industry, and other appropriate organizations. The completed study shall be available to Congress by March 1996.

H.R. 1854: FY 1996 Legislative Branch Appropriations (As Reported in the *Congressional Record*, July 28, 1995, Pages H7965-H7966)

Amendment numbered 34:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 34, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

Restore the matter stricken by said amendment, amended to read as follows:

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

Sec. 210. The fiscal year 1997 budget submission of the Public Printer to the Congress for the Government Printing Office shall include appropriations requests and recommendations to the Congress that--

(1) are consistent with the strategic plan included in the technological study performed by the Public Printer pursuant to Senate Report 104-114;

(2) assure substantial progress toward maximum use of electronic information dissemination technologies by all departments, agencies, and other entities of the Government with respect to the Depository Library Program and information dissemination generally; and

(3) are formulated so as to require that any department, agency, or other entity of the Government that does not make such progress shall bear from its own resources the cost of its information dissemination by other than electronic means.

And the Senate agree to the same.

House Report 104-212: Conference Report on H.R. 1854: FY 1996 Legislative Branch Appropriations (Pages 14-15)

Amendment numbered 34: Deletes a House provision stricken by the Senate which would have amended section 1903 of Title 44, and inserts a provision directing the Public Printer to include in the fiscal year 1997 budget submission a proposal for the depository library program that will result in the conversion of this program to electronic format. The Public Printer is directed to propose a means to create cost incentives for publishing agencies, including the Congress, to migrate from print-on paper products to electronic format. The conferees direct that the Public Printer and Superintendent of Documents consult with the Joint Committee on Printing, House and Senate document publishing managers, and appropriate executive branch officials in the development of the fiscal year 1997 budget program. The conferees also do not intend that the study directed in the Senate report or the plan regarding electronic format should interfere with the activities of the authorizing committees to consider legislation amending Title 44, U.S. Code, or any legislative initiative which will improve the Federal printing program.

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(1) are consistent with the strategic plan included in the technological study performed by the Public Printer pursuant to Senate Report 104—114;

(2) assure substantial progress toward maximum use of electronic information dissemination technologies by all departments, agencies, and other entities of the Government with respect to the Depository Library Program and information dissemination generally; and

(3) are formulated so as to require that any department, agency, or other entity of the Government that does not make such progress shall bear from its own resources the cost of its information dissemination by other than electronic means.